

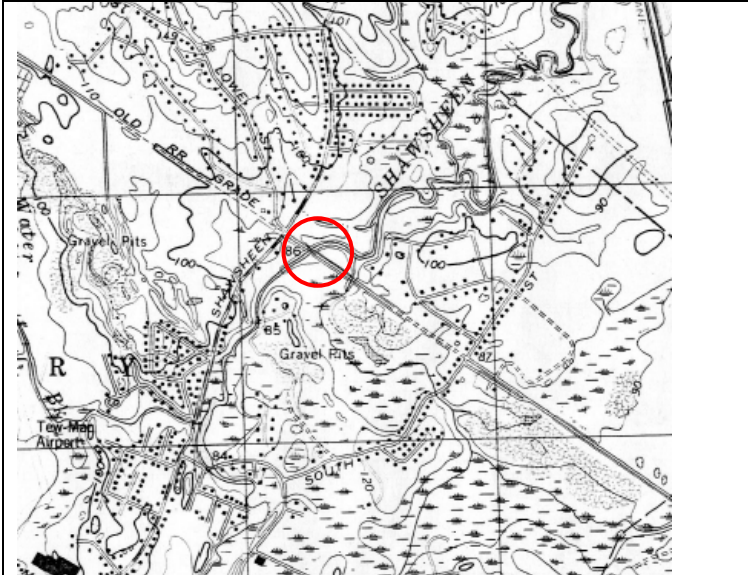
FORM F – STRUCTURE (BRIDGE)

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



UTM Reference 19/ 47 18 740 N 3 20 285E

Recorded by Julie Ann Larry

Organization: ttl-architects, LLC

Date (month / year) August 2010

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

99 112

Wilmington

Town Tewksbury

Place (neighborhood or village)
Burt's Crossing

Street/Route former Salem & Lowell Railroad

Carried over Shawsheen River
(Railroad, river, brook, canal or road)

Historic/Common name
Salem & Lowell RR Bridge

Ownership Public – Town of Tewksbury
(Name of state agency or municipality)

Mass. Highway bridge no. NA

Bridge type stringer/girder

Bridge typology code 0 2 1 10

Date of Construction c1850

Source The Rail Lines of Southern New England - A Handbook
of Railroad History

Engineer/Designer unknown

Bridge company/Contractor unknown

Material (s) Uncut Stone, concrete, steel

Alterations (with dates) Concrete abutment and steel
footbridge(Late 20th Cen)

Posted load limit (if any) NA

Condition Fair

Moved X no yes Date

Acreage 2.77 Acres

Setting The bridge is in an undeveloped area southeast of Shawsheen Street. A wide gravel path over the former railroad grade is edged with mature trees and leads to the bridge deck. The stone abutments can be viewed from the side of the steep embankment on either side of the path. Upstream of the bridge the Shawsheen River curves southward. Downstream of the bridge the river cascades over a rocky bottom. The area is now a popular swimming hole with a rope swing.

STRUCTURE FORM (BRIDGE)

Superstructure

Overall length 16'	Deck width 12'	Skew
Main unit: No. of spans 1		Span length 12'
Approaches: No. of spans		Span length

Substructure *(structure below deck)*

Height above feature spanned 10'	Material of abutments or piers Uncut Stone & Concrete
----------------------------------	---

ENGINEERING/DESIGN ASSESSMENT ____ *see continuation sheet*

Describe important design features and evaluate in terms of other bridges within the community or region.

While the steel bridge and concrete abutments are from the late 20th century, the granite abutments below the bridge are from the mid-19th century. A stone abutment funnels the channel of the Shawsheen River under the bridge. The uncut stones are stacked in irregular courses. The stones range in size from large boulders to small baseball sized stones placed between larger stones. The original bridge was designed to carry one track across the river, while the current footbridge can accommodate narrow private vehicles.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ____ *see continuation sheet*

Explain the history of bridge and how it relates to the development of the community.

The Salem & Lowell Railroad was chartered in 1848 and completed in the summer of 1850. The entire line ran from Lowell to Salem, Mass. It was operated by the Lowell and Lawrence Railroad and used track rights over the Essex Railroad from Peabody into Salem. Mainly used to transport coal from the port of Salem to Lowell, it was also operated as a passenger service. In 1858 the operation of the line was leased by the Boston and Lowell Railroad. The service along the portion of the railroad that ran from Tewksbury Junction, off Livingston Street in Tewksbury, to Wilmington Junction was discontinued in 1924 and the tracks abandoned in 1925. The railroad crossing at Shawsheen Street just west of the bridge was known as Burt's Crossing. A station was located on the south side of the tracks between the street and the bridge c1889. The footbridge is now used for recreation and emergency access to South Street during periods of extreme flooding.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ____ *see continuation sheet*

Karr, Ronald D. *The Rail Lines of Southern New England - A Handbook of Railroad History*. Branch Line Press. 1995.

____ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)Form No.



The east bank abutment and river channel upstream of bridge.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

BRIDGE

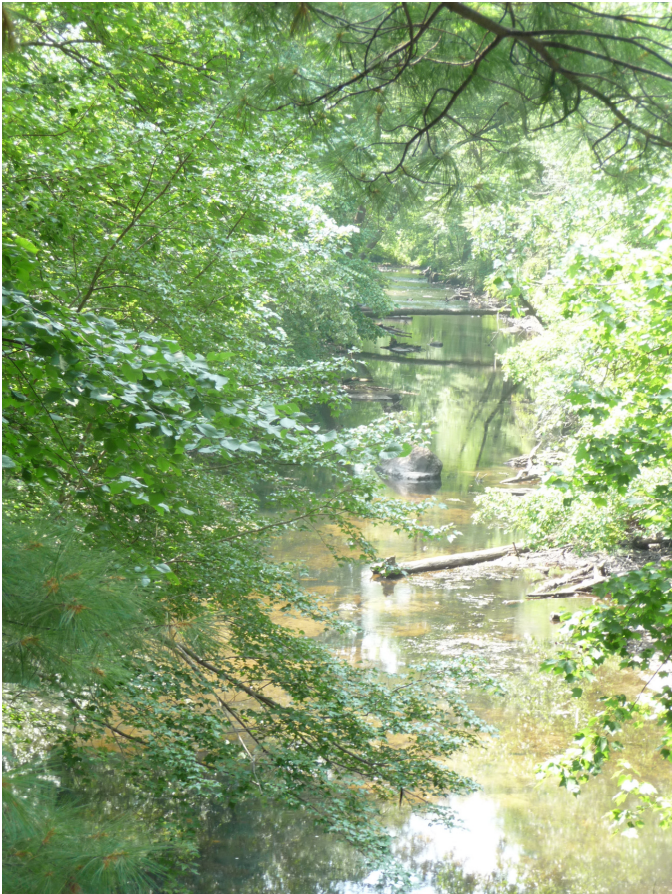
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

TEWKSBURY FORMER SALEM & LOWELL RR

Area(s)	Form No.
<div></div>	<div></div>



Approach from Shawsheen Street looking southeast.



View downriver from the bridge.